

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 1 - 38. (Canceled).

1 39. (Currently amended) A method of satisfying a resource request in a computer
2 system for configuring systems ~~using a resource comprising a combination of resources~~, the
3 method comprising:

4 instantiating in the computer system a configuration instance from a configuration model,
5 wherein the configuration model includes a defined structural hierarchy of
6 elements and a plurality of resources offered by elements in the structural model
7 hierarchy;
8 (a) examining the configuration instance for ~~an element one of the elements~~ offering a
9 resource in response to a request for the resource, wherein the resource offered by
10 at least one of the elements in the structural model hierarchy represents a
11 ~~combination of multiple like pool of~~ resources;
12 (b) selecting the element when the resource ~~offered by the element~~ has not been
13 previously consumed;
14 (c) selecting a newly created element instance that offers the resource if no existing
15 elements satisfy the resource request; and
16 (d) repeating (a) through (d) when the element selection does not satisfy the resource
17 request.

1 40. Canceled.

1 41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40 wherein each element offering a
2 resource that includes a pool of resources is a structural superior in the structural model
3 hierarchy to an element consuming the resource.

1 42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40 wherein a plurality of the
2 resources in the pool of resources combine to satisfy the resource request.

1 43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40 wherein one of the resources in
2 the pool of resources satisfies the resource request.

1 44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40 wherein the element offering the
2 resource includes multiple power supplies whose combined power supply capacity is pooled to
3 provide the requested resource.

4 45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39 wherein the combination of
5 multiple like resources comprises resources inherited from at least one other element.

1 46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45 wherein each element offering a
2 resource includes resources inherited from at least one other element is a structural superior in
3 the structural model hierarchy to an element consuming the resource.

1 47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45 wherein a plurality of the
2 resources inherited from at least one other element combines to satisfy the resource request.

1 48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45 wherein one of the resources
2 inherited from at least one other element satisfies the resource request.

1 49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39 wherein the configuration
2 instance is empty when a new configuration is being defined and the configuration instance
3 includes an existing configuration when an existing system is being updated.

1 50. (Currently amended) An apparatus for configuring systems comprising:
2 a processor;
3 a memory coupled to the processor;
4 a model stored in the memory, wherein elements included in the model are defined in a
5 structural model hierarchy and each of the elements offers one or more resources;
6 a configuration engine, stored in the memory and executable by the processor, to satisfy a
7 resource request using a resource ~~comprising a combination of resources offered~~

8 by one of the elements, wherein the configuration engine includes code
9 executable by the processor for:
10 instantiating in the computer system a configuration instance;
11 (a) examining the configuration instance for an element one of the elements
12 offering a resource in response to a request for the resource, wherein the
13 resource offered by at least one of the elements in the structural model
14 hierarchy represents a ~~combination of multiple like pool of~~ resources;
15 (b) selecting the element when the resource offered by the element has not been
16 previously consumed;
17 (c) selecting a newly created element instance that offers the resource if no
18 existing elements satisfy the resource request; and
19 (d) repeating step (a) through (d) when the element selection does not satisfy the
20 resource request.

1 51. Canceled.

1 52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51 wherein each element offering a
2 resource that includes a pool of resources is a structural superior in the structural model
3 hierarchy to an element consuming the resource.

1 53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51 wherein a plurality of the
2 resources in the pool of resources combine to satisfy the resource request.

1 54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51 wherein one of the resources in
2 the pool of resources satisfies the resource request.

1 55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51 wherein the element offering the
2 resource includes multiple power supplies whose combined power supply capacity is pooled to
3 provide the requested resource.

4 56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51 wherein the combination of
5 multiple like resources comprises resources inherited from at least one other element

1 57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50 wherein each element offering a
2 resource includes resources inherited from at least one other element is a structural superior in
3 the structural model hierarchy to an element consuming the resource.

1 58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57 wherein a plurality of the
2 resources inherited from at least one other element combines to satisfy the resource request.

1 59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57 wherein one of the resources
2 inherited from at least one other element satisfies the resource request.

1 60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50 wherein the configuration
2 instance is empty when a new configuration is being defined and the configuration instance
3 includes an existing configuration when an existing system is being updated.

1 61. (Previously Presented) An article of manufacture comprising code encoded
2 therein and executable by a processor to cause the processor to:
3 instantiate in the computer system a configuration instance from a configuration model,
4 wherein the configuration model includes a defined structural hierarchy of
5 elements and a plurality of resources offered by elements in the structural model
6 hierarchy;
7 (a) examine the configuration instance for an element one of the elements offering a
8 resource in response to a request for the resource, wherein the resource offered by
9 at least one of the elements in the structural model hierarchy represents a
10 ~~combination of multiple like pool of resources~~;

- 11 (b) select the element when the resource offered by the element has not been previously
12 consumed;
13 (c) select a newly created element instance that offers the resource if no existing elements
14 satisfy the resource request; and
15 (d) repeat (a) through (d) when the element selection does not satisfy the resource
16 request.

1 62. (Currently amended) An apparatus for satisfying a resource request in a computer
2 system for configuring systems using a resource comprising a combination of resources
3 comprising:
4 a processor;
5 a memory coupled to the processor;
6 a model stored in the memory, wherein elements included in the model are defined in a
7 structural model hierarchy and each of the elements offers one or more resources;
8 means for defining a structural model hierarchy and a plurality of resources offered by
9 elements in the structural model hierarchy;
10 means for instantiating in the computer system a configuration instance;
11 (a) means for examining the configuration instance for an element one of the elements
12 offering a resource in response to a request for the resource, wherein the resource
13 offered by at least one of the elements in the structural model hierarchy represents
14 a combination of multiple like pool of resources;
15 (b) means for selecting the element when the resource offered by the element has not
16 been previously consumed;
17 (c) means for selecting a newly created element instance that offers the resource if no
18 existing elements satisfy the resource request; and
19 (d) means for causing (a) through (d) to search for another element to satisfy the resource
20 request when the element selection does not satisfy the resource request.